

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/VN:RGRICHMOND:JCM
APPROVED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
EA:RHMILLER
S/S - MR. LUERS

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040659

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, OVIP, VS, US

SUBJECT: SENATOR TRAN VAN LAM'S CALL ON THE DEPUTY
SECRETARY
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE HIGHLIGHTS OF VIETNAMESE SENATE
CHAIRMAN LAM'S CALL ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FEBRUARY 20.

2. LAM AND AMBASSADOR PHUONG DESCRIBED THEIR EFFORTS TO
OBTAIN U.S. SENATE SUPPORT FOR THE REQUESTED DOLS 300
MILLION FY 1975 SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THE
VIETNAMESE DELEGATION HAS CALLED ON 20 SENATORS.
HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF SENATORS, INCLUDING CASE, CHURCH,
PEARSON, MANSFIELD, HUGH SCOTT, AND JACKSON, DECLINED TO
RECEIVE THE DELEGATION. WHEN ASKED FOR A GENERAL
IMPRESSION OF SENATE REACTION TO THE DELEGATION, PHUONG
SAID THAT IT COULD NOT REALLY BE CONSIDERED FAVORABLE.
HE ADDED THAT A MORE ACCURATE DESCRIPTION MIGHT BE A
CANDID EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

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3. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WELCOMED THE TIMELY VISIT OF CHAIRMAN LAM AND HIS COLLEAGUES. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THE CONTINUING EFFORTS WE ARE MAKING TO OBTAIN THE SUPPLEMENTAL. HE NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY AND HE HAD

BEEN MEETING WITH AS MANY OF THE NEW SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN AS POSSIBLE, BUT AT THE MOMENT THE MAJORITY SENTIMENT APPEARED TO BE OPPOSED TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION.

4. LAM MENTIONED CURRENT GVN DIFFICULTIES WITH THE VIETNAMESE PRESS AND SAID THAT THE GVN HAD DEFINATE PROOF THAT A NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS ARE COMMUNISTS WITH THE ASSIGNED MISSION OF INFILTRATING THE MEDIA IN ORDER TO PLANT STORIES, AND IDEAS WHICH WOULD SAP PUBLIC MORALE, DISCOURAGE THE MILITARY, AND DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT. HE OUTLINED THE ORIGINS OF THE 1972 PRESS LAW AND THE PRESENT EFFORTS BEING MADE BY THE SENATE TO MODIFY IT. HE STRESSED THE FACT THAT PRESS OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO BE TOLERATED. KISSINGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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